

The City of Memphis continues to recover from the aftermath of the extraordinary rain event which devastated certain areas and neighborhoods on May 1, 2010. The Council members were provided a briefing on May 2 from the various governmental divisions involved in the city's response to this situation.

Severe flooding occurred in a number of neighborhoods in downtown Memphis, North Memphis, Midtown, Raleigh and Frayser causing numerous road and bridge closures particularly in the northern section of the county.

There are a few key points which should be emphasized during this period:

Exercise caution when traveling in areas that were hit hardest by the storm. If a road or bridge is barricaded, please find a different route and do not go around the barricades. Streets and bridges are closed because of the dangers that may lie beneath the surface.

Homeland Security and Emergency Management Officials have begun the process of evaluating properties affected by the storm and calculating the cost to the city and to residents. Code Enforcement personnel are conducting site visits and inspecting the exterior of properties for water evidence.

Once a dollar amount of this disaster is computed then the paperwork will be submitted to the State and later to the Federal Government for approval.

If a disaster declaration is approved, citizens and government can file the paperwork necessary to recover some of the costs expended during this crisis. Losses will be repaid on a reimbursement basis only. Residents should notify their insurance company of any damages sustained to their property.

Emergency Management Agency (EMA) officials will notify the public if the declaration is approved and when and where citizens can go to file a claim for damages. The contact number for EMA is 515-2525.

The assessment and paperwork process will not be completed overnight. The public is asked to be as patient as possible while the disaster officials perform their duties. The Council Office will continue to monitor the response and will update this website with critical information.

Citizens should notify Public Works officials at 576-7109 of any significant sinkholes or cavities which appear in the streets.

Officials are monitoring the Wolf River at Germantown Parkway which will reach a peak of 25.5 feet. They are trying to determine any impact this might have particularly as the water moves throughout the City of Memphis.